Patent claims:

1. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which from 0.5 to 5 U of an ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF) is/are added, per ml, to the test medium and, after incubation, the ADAMTS-13 activity is determined by way of the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets.

2. A diagnostic method for determining the VWF-cleaving activity of ADAMTS-13 in a test medium, in which platelets are added to ADAMTS-13-free von Willebrand factor (VWF), with the platelets aggregating and the test medium then being added to this mixture and the ADAMTS-13 activity being determined by way of the dissociation of the platelet aggregates.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the method is carried out in the presence of ristocetin.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the reduction in the VWF-mediated aggregation of platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

5. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the dissociation of the platelets is determined using a calibration curve, with normal human plasma which has been diluted with varying quantities of inactivated

normal human plasma being used for constructing the calibration curve.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a serine protease inhibitor is used.

7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that no serine protease inhibitor is used.

8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that divalent cations are used.

9. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that no divalent cations are used.

10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the ADAMTS-13-free VWF is bound to a solid phase.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the solid phase is a particulate solid phase.

12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is blood plasma.

13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is blood serum.

14. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is saliva.

15. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cerebrospinal fluid.

16. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cell culture supernatant.

17. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the test medium is cell extract.

18. A diagnostic kit, containing an ADAMTS-13-free VWF and platelets.

19. The diagnostic kit as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that it additionally contains ristocetin.

20. The use of a VWF activity detection reagent for detecting the protease ADAMTS-13.